

PATRICK WOOD v. CLUB, LLC, et al., AC 32738
Judicial District of Stamford-Norwalk

Negligence; Whether Evidence of Nightclub's Reputation and Testimony of Security Expert were Properly Admitted; Whether Evidence of Plaintiff's Alleged Intoxication was Improperly Excluded; Whether Instruction on Liability for Actions of Third Parties was Warranted. On March 24, 2007, the plaintiff, Patrick Wood, attended a party at the defendants' nightclub in Stamford. Sometime during the evening, a group of four male patrons began to make advances toward some of the women attending the party. Around closing time, the plaintiff noticed that one of the male patrons was dancing toward his girlfriend. The plaintiff intervened by putting his arm around his girlfriend and turning his back to the male patron. The plaintiff was then struck on the head with a glass bottle. Subsequently, the plaintiff brought this action against the defendants, alleging that the attack resulted from the negligence and carelessness of the defendants' agents and employees. The jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff in the amount of \$300,000, consisting of \$60,000 in economic damages and \$240,000 in non-economic damages. On appeal, the defendants claim, among other things, that the trial court improperly (a) concluded that the plaintiff's security expert was qualified to render an expert opinion regarding the adequacy of the security in the nightclub, (b) refused to charge the jury on liability for actions of third parties, (c) excluded testimony on the plaintiff's alleged intoxication, and (d) admitted into evidence testimony regarding the nightclub's reputation.